

<b>LAS VEGAS POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b> <i>Weapons</i>	<b>NUMBER: ADM.12</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <i>9 September 2010</i>	<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>
<b>AMENDS/SUPERSEDES:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b> <i>Chief of Police Gary Gold</i>
<b>NMMLPSC STANDARDS:</b> <i>ADM.06.01</i>	<b>NMSA:</b>

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the efficient and effective management of weapons by providing administrative guidance that identifies the responsibilities and investigative processes within the uniform and investigative components of the department.

#### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Las Vegas Police Department to manage the function of weapons in an effective and efficient manner by coordinating the efforts of uniform and other investigative organizational components as provided in this policy.

#### III. APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to all commissioned employees of the Las Vegas Police Department.

#### IV. REFERENCES

- A. NMMLPSC Adm. 06.01
- B. Las Vegas Police Department

#### V. DEFINITIONS

- A. Pepperball Launching System (PLS) – Is a unique less lethal chemical agent delivery system that uses high pressure air launchers to deliver projectiles from a distance. It can be used on individual suspects as well as large groups of people for riot and crowd control.
- B. Projectile – Pepperball projectiles are plastic, frangible spheres that are filled with PAVA powder. The projectiles, when delivered by an air powered launching device, burst on impact and release the PAVA powder. The PLS can deliver the projectiles with enough kinetic energy to produce temporary abrasions, bruises, and/or welts. Other projectiles such as glass breaking projectiles, inert training projectiles, and marking projectiles may be used as well.

C. PAVA – Also known as Capsaicin II, is a naturally occurring compound found in pepper plants.

VI. **PROCEDURE**

A police officer's firearm is perhaps the most commonly perceived symbol of his authority and role. In the interest of public safety and police professionalism, the department sets herein high standards of performance for its personnel who use weapons. The department's policy ensures that members are properly trained not only in the use of appropriate firearms, but also in their maintenance. In addition, the department believes that off-duty use of weapons, plus the selection and wearing of on-and off-duty holsters must follow standards enforced by supervisors and the department armorer.

Officers are not permitted to routinely switch back and forth between different handguns and types of handguns. During a shooting incident, it is imperative that an officer be able to instinctively operate an assigned or authorized weapon proficiently. Routinely switching weapons puts an officer at a distinct disadvantage which could be fatal.

No officer shall be permitted to carry a weapon until proper training has been received and the officer has qualified with the weapon. Each officer will be provided with a copy of the Department's Use of Force policy prior to being allowed to carry a weapon. All officers, while on duty and within their jurisdiction, must have a department authorized handgun immediately accessible. Uniform officers must carry authorized handgun while on duty.

I. **Defensive Equipment**

A. **Expandable Baton (ASP)**

1. The ASP expandable baton is the only baton authorized for carrying and use by the officers of the Department. Personal ASP must be approved.
2. The ASP is issued to all commissioned officers. Uniformed officers who are considered first responders are required to carry the ASP in the appropriate manner while on duty. Other uniformed officers and non-uniformed officers may carry the ASP at their discretion.
3. Officers are not approved to carry an ASP until successful completion of approved baton training.
4. If an officer's authorization to carry the baton is revoked, the Defensive Tactics Instructor shall notify the officer's supervisor
5. Officers are responsible for maintaining the ASP baton so that it is safe and reliable for use.
6. Damaged, warped or incomplete batons must be reported immediately to the

officer's supervisor for repair or replacement.

7. No alterations or modifications shall be made to the ASP without the approval of either the Defensive Tactics Coordinator or the Patrol Commander.
8. On a periodic basis, in conjunction with firearms qualifications, officers will complete continuing training under the supervision of a certified Baton instructor. This allows officer's to continue demonstrating proficiency. This proficiency demonstration will be documented.

#### **B. Pepperball**

The PLS provides officers with a safe, effective and simple-to-use alternative to existing compliance systems. Pepperball projectiles combine a safe level of kinetic impact with a pepper powder (PAVA- Capsaicin II). These projectiles are accurately delivered at distances to 0-60 feet, and 150 feet of area saturation using a compressed air system. As the projectile strike and break apart, the resulting powder envelops the eyes and enters the breathing passages. They can be used in a variety of applications, including control of an uncooperative or violent person, standoff and barricade situations, civil disorder control, prison/cell extraction, suicide-by-cop, drug labs/warrant service, domestic violence, area denial, building searches, vehicle standoff, animal control, and department training.

The use of the PLS should be considered an alternate action in connection with the Use of Force Policy under appropriate circumstances and is not intended as a replacement for the baton, Taser or firearm. The PLS should not be used indiscriminately or in anticipation against mere threats of violence and resistance.

#### **1. Justification for Use**

a. The employment and use of the PLS can assist in overcoming resistance directed at the officer or others; or to protect the officer, or a third party, from unlawful force; to protect property; or to effect other lawful objectives, such as to make an arrest. Circumstances justifying the use of the PLS include, but are not limited to:

1. When a suspect exhibits violent or potentially violent behavior that threatens the safety of others and attempts to subdue the suspect by conventional means of persuasion, escort control, self defense techniques and/or pain compliance measures have not been or reasonably appear unlikely to be effective, or;
2. When it is unsafe for an officer to approach a suspect within contact range, or;

3. When higher use of force options may be justified, but an opportunity exists for the use of the PLS before these other options are employed, or;
4. To defend one's self or another from an aggressive and/or attacking animal, or;
5. To disperse or control an unruly, rioting crowds threatening unlawful property damage or physical force, or;
6. Inside the detention area, the PLS may be used after ample verbal warning if a prisoner refuses to comply with the lawful order, and the prisoner takes an aggressive posture (i.e., clenched fists, fight stance, etc., or makes aggressive movements towards an officer).

2. Use and deployment

- a. Only qualified, trained officers shall be allowed to deploy and use the PLS.
- b. Trained officers will properly care for and maintain the PLS for service.
- c. All problems will be reported to the Division Commander via Chain of Command.
- d. Officers shall only use Pepperball Technologies, Inc. launchers and projectiles.
- e. The PLS will be stored in a secure location as determined by the Division Supervisor.
- f. Officers encountering a situation, which requires the use of the PLS, when feasible, shall immediately notify a supervisor. This system can be used before the arrival of a supervisor when the situation dictates such use. The supervisor shall respond to all PLS deployments. The supervisor shall make all notifications and ensure reports are submitted as required by the Use of Force Policy.
- g. Officers will target the center mass of the body, unless the suspect is wearing heavy clothing, then he will target less padded areas such as legs and arms, as well as the surfaces around the suspect to disperse the PAVA powder. Officers shall not intentionally target the eyes, face, neck or spine, unless a deadly force situation occurs.
- h. Officers will give a verbal warning, loudly and clearly before dispensing projectiles. Officers hearing this warning should immediately break contact with the intended target and create distance while the projectiles are deployed.

- i. Persons exposed to the PLS shall be provided with decontamination assistance in a reasonable amount of time.
- j. Arrestees who have been struck with projectiles shall be transported to a medical facility for evaluation and treatment
- k. The use of the PLS is considered a reportable use of force, therefore, any reports made necessary by the nature of the underlying incident; and a Use of Force Report shall be completed.

### 3. Training

- a. Only officers who have successfully completed a departmental approved training course in the proper use and deployment of the PLS shall be authorized to use it during actual operations. Recertification will be on a bi-annual basis.

## C. Chemical Spray (OC Spray)

1. Oleoresin Capsicum spray, otherwise known as OC Spray, is made with the plants from the genus capsicum, and is the only chemical spray authorized for use by this Department. Peppers are the active ingredient in OC Spray which comes in concentrations of 5% and 10%.
2. No officer shall be issued or authorized to carry or use chemical spray until the officer has successfully completed a course of training under the direction of a NMLEA certified instructor. Officers must be specifically authorized to carry chemical spray.
3. Las Vegas Police Department recommends all officers to carry and be certified in the use of OC spray as this provides the officer with an additional tool for officer safety issues and is listed as one of the responses in the RCM (Reaction Control Model). However, officers may carry OC at their discretion.
4. Officers who have been authorized to carry chemical spray shall be required to attend a training session at least once per year. This training will be documented by the instructor and turned over to the Department Training Coordinator for documentation.
5. An instructor may revoke an officer's authorization to carry chemical spray if the officer fails to demonstrate proficiency.
6. An officer's authorization to carry chemical spray may be revoked with cause by a supervisor.
7. If an officer's authorization to carry chemical spray is revoked, the instructor will notify the officer's supervisor and the Training Section by memorandum.

8. Only department issued chemical spray may be carried.
9. Officers shall not alter or modify the chemical spray canister or any part of the trigger mechanism in any manner
10. The OC spray canister shall be inspected on a monthly basis by the officer's supervisor.

**D. Electronic Incapacitation Device –M26 Advanced Taser**

The M26 TASER is a Conducted Energy Weapon; an electronic incapacitation device. It is a defensive weapon, which is listed in the force continuum as O.C. spray and soft empty hands. The M26 TASER functions in two ways;

1. It uses compressed nitrogen to project two probes a maximum of 21 feet. An electrical signal is then sent to the probes, via small wires, which disrupts the body's ability to communicate messages from the brain to the muscles and causes motor skill dysfunction.
2. Acts as a touch stun system when brought into immediate contact with a person's body
3. The M26 TASER is not meant to be used in deadly force situations. The M26 TASER must not be used without a firearm back up in those situations where there is a substantial threat towards the Officer(s) or others present.
4. The M26 TASER provides a force option in which the officer does not have to get dangerously close to a threat before deploying the tool. Using the M26 TASER may greatly reduce the need for other types of physical force by the Officer(s) resulting in a serious or potentially deadly injury to the offender, Officer, or others present.
5. Any use of an electronic incapacitation device contrary to the direction of this Policy can result in the revocation of the Officer's right to use such product and may subject the Officer to disciplinary action.
6. Issuing of the M26 Taser
  - a. Department personnel shall only carry and use the M26 ADVANCED TASER or electrical incapacitation devices approved by the Chief of Police. Officers will only use and deploy Department issue M26 ADVANCED TASER cartridges.
  - b. Department issued M26 ADVANCED TASERS may be assigned to patrol supervisor units and specialty units.

- c. The shift supervisor should have an M26 ADVANCED TASER in their assigned vehicles at all times.
  1. A record will be kept of all M26 ADVANCED TASERS, their serial numbers, and what Officer or division they have been issued to. In the event that an M26 ADVANCED TASER is returned for repairs or no longer remains the property of the Las Vegas Police Department, the use history of that particular M26 ADVANCED TASER will be downloaded using the data port access and appropriate software. The use history will be maintained for a period of 3 years from the date the M26 ADVANCED TASER was taken out of issue.
  2. Use histories will be run on each M26 ADVANCED TASER once each year. Any indications of misuse of the device may result in disciplinary action or revocation of the users' certification.

## 7. Training and Certification

- a. All members who carry and/or use an M26 ADVANCED TASER must first successfully complete a 4 hour M26 ADVANCED TASER familiarization program, to include written practical tests. A mandatory re-certification program will be completed annually. The re-certification will be a minimum of 2 hours.

## 8. Use of M26 Taser on vicious Animals

- a. The full effect of an M26 ADVANCED TASER on animals is not yet proven. However, field deployments have shown positive results and the M26 ADVANCED TASER has been an effective tool against vicious animals. Animals have also shown the ability to quickly recover from the effects of the M26 ADVANCED TASER, due to differences in their nervous system. As soon as the ADVANCED TASER temporarily disables the animal, Officers should be prepared to act quickly with control devices or restraints. Using the ADVANCED TASER against vicious animals may reduce the need for greater, more injurious force against such animals. Personnel should deploy an M26 ADVANCED TASER on an animal when other conventional means to control the animal have been exhausted, or may be unreasonable. The use of an M26 ADVANCED TASER on an animal should be based on the attempt to provide a safer, more humane and less traumatic conclusion to the incident.

- b. Officers should be prepared to use other means of justified force if necessary, and should use conventional means of animal control if feasible. Conventional means of controlling the animal (e.g.: control sticks, collars, cages) should be on hand, at the scene, if possible, prior to the use of the M26 ADVANCED TASER. Personnel should be prepared to apply conventional controls once the M26 ADVANCED TASER subdues the animal.
- c. An M26 ADVANCED TASER may be deployed on an animal when:
  - 1. A vicious animal is threatening or attacking a citizen, an Officer, or other animal and the use of other force is not reasonable, or may not be desired given the situation.
  - 2. A vicious animal has threatened or attacked a citizen, an Officer, another animal, or has caused a continuing public nuisance and the vicious animal needs to be controlled for reason of public peace or safety, preservation of property, or other legitimate purpose; and the animal poses an active threat to Officers in their efforts to perform their duty.
  - 3. Other sections of this policy that apply to issuance, training/certification, deployment procedures, precautions and duties also apply to this section; although the other sections apply generally to deployments against persons.
  - 4. Center mass of the animal should be targeted. Care should be taken that the head and other sensitive areas of the animal are not targeted. It is understood that deployment against vicious animals may be very dynamic in nature and the probes may impact unintentional areas. Procedures for probe removal should take place as outlined in this policy. Personnel will take reasonable measures to insure the animal's welfare is provided for, in the event that probes impact a sensitive area, or it appears the animal's health is in jeopardy. It is generally understood that as long as personnel acted appropriately, the animal's owner will be responsible for any medical attention needed by the animal.

## 9. Use of M26 Advanced Taser on a person

The TASER is not a substitute for deadly force and should not be used in those situations. Deployment of the TASER should be backed up with the availability of lethal force. The TASER may be used in those situations where:

- a. A subject is threatening himself, an Officer or other person with physical force and other means of controlling the subject are unreasonable or could cause injury to the Officer(s), the subject(s) or others.

- b. In cases where Officer/Subject factors indicate the Officer(s), offender(s) or others would be endangered by the use of physical force.
- c. Other means of lesser or equal force have been ineffective and the threat still exists to the Officer(s), subject(s) and others.
- d. Center mass of the body should be targeted when firing the M26 ADVANCED TASER, particularly the center mass of the back: as clothing tends to be tighter on this part of the body. The head and face should not be targeted unless the appropriate level of force can be justified.
- e. The ADVANCED TASER will never be used punitively or for purposes of coercion. It is to be used as a way of averting a potentially injurious or dangerous situation. The ADVANCED TASER has an effective range of 13 feet, with a fifteen foot cartridge: and 19 feet with a 21 foot cartridge. Ranges fewer than 3 feet may not provide adequate distribution of the probes to allow the unit to function to its full effectiveness. Firing the ADVANCED TASER at a subject at a range closer than 3 feet is not dangerous to the subject, however.
- f. Prior to the deployment of an ADVANCED TASER: the person deploying has the responsibility to visually and physically confirm that the tool selected is in fact an ADVANCED TASER and not a firearm. The deploying person should also notify dispatch, if feasible, that an ADVANCED TASER is going to be deployed. The deploying person should also notify any on-scene, assisting officers that they intend to deploy an ADVANCED TASER.
- g. The ADVANCED TASER has the ability to ignite flammable liquids. It will not be deployed at subjects that have come in contact with flammables or in environments where flammables are obviously present. Personnel should be especially aware of this when in known meth lab environments.
- h. Proper consideration and care should be taken when deploying the ADVANCED TASER on subjects who are in an elevated position or in other circumstances where a fall may cause substantial injury or death. Officers must be prepared to justify such a deployment.

#### **10. Duties after Deployment**

- a. Immediate action should be taken to care for the injured, to apprehend any suspects, and to protect the scene.
- b. Once the subject has been restrained or has complied, the ADVANCED TASER should be turned off.

- c. A TASER will not be left unattended except in exigent circumstances as when an officer is forced to act alone in taking custody of an immediate threat.
- d. Medical personnel will be summoned to the scene to assess the subject. If the exam or other circumstances dictate the subject needs further medical treatment; the subject will be transported to the nearest medical facility. Medical treatment will not be refused for anyone who requests it.
- e. Medical personnel will remove probes located in sensitive areas such as the face, neck, groin or breast.
- f. Removal of probes in other areas may be done by Officers; at the discretion of the on scene supervisor. Officers will provide first aid following removal of the probes by applying iodine or alcohol wipes, and band-aids to the probe sites as needed. Officers should inspect the probes after removal to insure that the entire probe and probe barb has been removed. In the event that a probe or probe barb has broken off is still embedded in a subject's skin; the subject should be provided appropriate medical attention to facilitate the removal of the object.
- g. Photographs will be taken of probe impact sites and any other related injuries.
- h. Probes that have been removed from skin will be treated as **biohazard sharps**.
- i. Involved personnel will attempt to locate and identify any witnesses to the incident.
- j. Officers shall refrain from discussing the incident until the arrival of an on scene supervisor or other administrator. The involved person will brief them of the circumstances surrounding the incident and what action has taken place.

## 11. Supervisor Responsibilities

- a. The first supervisor on the scene should ensure that proper care is given to injured officers and/or citizens.
- b. He/she should ensure that all responsibilities of the Officer have been carried out regarding care for the injured, apprehension of the suspects and protection of the scene.

- c. The supervisor shall ensure the proper notifications of department command staff are made, as soon as possible.
- d. The shift or on scene supervisor shall notify the Patrol Lieutenant if any traumatic injury has occurred due to the use of force involving the ADVANCED TASER. The Patrol Lieutenant will then notify the Captain and Chief of Police.
- e. The Patrol Lieutenant shall determine if detectives are to be called to investigate the incident.
- f. Use of Force Report shall be completed and forwarded to the Patrol Lieutenant, Captain and Chief of Police.
- g. All other written reports associated with the incident shall also be completed before the end of the shift and forwarded in the same manner.

**E. Gas and Tear Gas Guns**

- a. Only officers assigned by the Patrol Commander are authorized to use gas and tear gas guns.
- b. The Patrol Commander is responsible for coordinating the cleaning and maintenance of 12 ga. shotguns which will fire barricade projectile CS liquid irritant.

**F. Knives**

- a. Knives will be of the folding variety and shall be stored in a belt pouch or attached by clip.
- b. Blade of the knife will be no longer than four inches.
- c. Total length of opened knife will be no more than ten inches.
- d. The knife is not to be used as a defensive weapon except in extreme situations.
- e. The intent of this policy is that the knife is used to assist officers in freeing victims.
- f. The department does not issue knives.

## **II. Deadly Force Equipment**

### **A. Primary Handgun**

1. The Department shall inspect and approve each commissioned officers handgun.
2. All officers must carry the department issued Glock .357 Sig Model 31 handgun.
3. While in an on-duty status, all uniformed officers will be armed with the department issued handgun carried in an issued level three retention holster or approved level two retention holster with accessory light attachment. Only magazines and pouches issued or authorized by the department will be carried.
4. The department shall issue 124gr. Gold Dot ammunition for the handgun.
5. Any modifications must be approved by the Chief of Police.
6. All department issued firearms will be inspected twice a year by the Range instructor and/or the Department Armorer. Unsafe weapons will be removed from service until repaired.
7. All weapons issued will be recorded with the weapon type, serial number, date of issue and officer it was issued to. This will be maintained by the Range instructor and/or Armorer.

### **B. Off-Duty Handgun**

1. The Department shall inspect and approve each commissioned officers off-duty handgun if the officer chooses to use one other then the Department issued handgun.
2. Officers may carry their Department issued firearm while off duty.
3. The weapon will be loaded with Department issued ammunition and must be carried concealed.
4. If an off duty weapon is carried in plain view the officer shall display his badge of office.
5. Exceptions:
  - a. Off-duty officers shall not carry a firearm when socially inappropriate (e.g., at a sports event etc.)

- b. Off-duty officers shall not carry a firearm when consuming alcoholic beverages or when going into a licensed liquor establishment when the purpose is the consumption of alcoholic beverages.
6. Off-duty weapons shall be carried safely in a retention level holster.
7. Officers may carry a firearm other than their issued duty weapon, off-duty, if it meets the following guidelines:
  - a. The officer must show proficiency in the handgun's manipulation and must qualify with the handgun.
  - b. The officer must then request in a memo that he/she be allowed to carry an off-duty firearm which must be authorized by the department Range Master then approved by the Chief of Police.
8. Weapon will be at least a five or six shot semiautomatic or revolver in a minimum caliber of .32 not to exceed .45 caliber.
9. Concealability is one of the reasons for going to a different type of off-duty weapon other than the Department issued handgun.
10. Holsters, extra magazines or speed loaders are required for qualification or when the weapon is being carried off-duty. The weapon must be carried in a manner in a manner where it is safe and secure.

#### **C. Back-up Handgun**

1. Officers may carry a back-up handgun while on duty.
2. The Department can issue back-up handguns based on a special case/duty assignment.
3. All other officers are allowed to carry a personally owned back-up handgun while on duty.
4. The weapon will be loaded with Department approved ammunition and must be carried concealed.
5. Back-up handguns shall be carried safely in a holster.
6. The officer must show proficiency in the handgun's manipulation and must qualify with the handgun.

7. The officer must then request in a memo that he/she be allowed to carry a back-up handgun which must be authorized by the Department Range Master then approved by the Chief of Police.
8. Weapon will be at least a five or six shot semiautomatic or revolver in a minimum caliber of .32 not to exceed .45 caliber.
9. Holsters, extra magazines or speed loaders are required for qualification or when the weapon is being carried as a back-up handgun.

**D. Shotgun**

1. The Department shall inspect and approve each commissioned officers shotgun.
2. Prior to carrying a shotgun officers will pass a training program and will qualify with the shotgun. The qualification course will be approved by the Las Vegas Police Department.
3. All officers must carry the Department issued Mossberg model 590 shotgun.
4. The shotgun will be loaded with Department issued ammunition.
5. Due to its wide shot dispersion, the shotgun shall only be used when a possibility exists that the officer will be dealing with an armed suspect, e.g., armed robbery in progress, searching for armed suspects, answering calls when the complainant has indicated that a person is armed. The use of shotguns may also include, but is not limited to the following incident types; felony stops, high risk warrant service, building searches, calls for service involving firearms or violent armed suspects.
6. An Officer who is designated to be the back-up or cover Officer for the calls for service as mention above may use the shotgun if required to do so by the circumstances.
7. When more than one Officer is dispatched to a call in which it is determined that the use of a shotgun is necessary, the Officers responding will have the responsibility to communicate with each other to designate which Officer(s) will be designated to respond with the shotgun as the primary weapon.
8. The shotgun shall not be used on misdemeanor calls for service, misdemeanor traffic stops, or for crowd control situations.
9. The Chief of Police may approve the use of shotguns on raids and stakeouts when he/she believes that a threat to human life exists.

10. Shotguns shall be encased and carried in patrol units when not in preparation for use. When the shotgun is not encased, it shall be carried with the safety on at all times until there is an immediate need to fire the weapon.
11. Shotguns shall be removed from vehicles before leaving them at any garage or service department.
  - a. While On-Duty, the Shotgun shall be secured in the vehicles locking device when not in use. When in use and once the threat is controlled the shotgun will be slung as per approved methods.
  - b. When Off-Duty, the shotgun shall be secured within the Officer's homes or in the rear trunk compartment of their police unit in a transportation case. Under no circumstances will the shotgun be left in a police unit, when an Officer is Off-Duty, where the weapon can viewed by another from outside the vehicle.
12. Before beginning a tour of duty or immediately thereafter Officers shall inspect their assigned shotgun.
13. The shotgun, when carried in the police vehicle, will be in a state where the "slide" is locked forward, the safety device is activated, and the chamber is empty.
14. In a "deadly force" situation, the Officer will obtain the shotgun safely from the police vehicle and immediately load the weapon and go to a "ready position."
15. All shotguns will be equipped with a sling so that the weapon can be retracted to a safe position to lessen the show of force when appropriate.
16. The shotgun will be carried only in the prescribed methods as instructed in the weapons qualifications course.
17. During regular firearms qualification, each officer shall be required to demonstrate proficiency with their issued shotgun.
18. Shotguns will be cleaned and inspected accordingly.
19. The four general rules of firearm safety also apply to shotguns.

**E. Police Long Rifle (AR-15)**

1. The Department shall inspect and approve each commissioned officers police long rifle (AR-15).
2. Prior to carrying an AR-15 officers will pass a training program and will qualify

with the rifle. The qualification course will be approved by the Las Vegas Police Department.

3. After the initial training course and qualification, officers will be required to qualify to qualify with the AR-15 once a year.
4. All Officers must carry the Department issued police long rifle, either the Colt model AR-15 A2, Bushmaster model XM15-E2S, or Rock River Arms Government Model LAR-15.
5. The police long rifle will be loaded with department issued ammunition.
6. The police long rifle shall only be used when a possibility exists that the officer will be dealing with an armed suspect, e.g., armed robbery in progress, searching for armed suspects, answering calls when the complainant has indicated that a person is armed. The use of the police long rifle may also include, but is not limited to the following incident types; felony stops, high risk warrant service, building searches, calls for service involving firearms or violent armed suspects.
7. An Officer who is designated to be the back-up or cover Officer for the calls for service as mentioned above may use the police long rifle if required to do so by the circumstances.
8. When more than one Officer is dispatched to a call in which it is determined that the use of a police long rifle is necessary, the Officers responding will have the responsibility to communicate with each other to designate which Officer(s) will be designated to respond with the police long rifle as the primary weapon.
9. The police long rifle shall not be used on misdemeanor calls for service, misdemeanor traffic stops, or for crowd control situations.
10. The Chief of Police may approve the use of police long rifles on raids and stakeouts when he/she believes that a threat to human life exists.
11. The police long rifle shall be encased and carried in patrol units when not in preparation for use. When the police long rifle is not encased, it shall be carried with the safety on at all times until there is an immediate need to fire the weapon.
12. Rifles shall be removed from vehicles before leaving them at any garage or service department.
  - a. While On-Duty, the police long rifle shall be secured in the vehicles locking device when not in use. When in use and once the threat is controlled the

police long rifle will be slung as per approved methods.

- b. When Off-Duty, the police long rifle shall be secured within the Officer's homes or in the rear trunk compartment of their police unit in a transportation case. Under no circumstances will the rifle be left in a police unit, when an Officer is Off- Duty, where the weapon can viewed by another from outside the vehicle.
13. Before beginning a tour of duty or immediately thereafter Officers shall inspect their assigned police long rifles.
14. The police long rifle, when carried in the police vehicle, will be in a state where the "bolt" is locked forward, the safety device is activated, and the chamber is empty. One loaded ammunition magazine will be locked in the "magazine well" and there will be no rounds chambered in the weapon.
15. In a "deadly force" situation, the Officer will obtain the police long rifle safely from the police vehicle and immediately load the weapon and go to a "ready position."
16. All police long rifles will be equipped with a sling so that the weapon can be retracted to a safe position to lessen the show of force when appropriate.
17. The police long rifle will be carried only in the prescribed methods as instructed in the weapons qualifications course.
18. During regular firearms qualification, each officer shall be required to demonstrate proficiency with their issued police long rifle.
19. Police long rifles will be cleaned and inspected accordingly.
20. The four general rules of firearm safety also apply to police long rifles.

**F. Police Scoped Rifle (Sniper Rifle)**

1. Only Officers assigned to use a Police Scoped Rifle will be issued a Remington model 700, with attached scope.
2. The Police scoped rifle will only be loaded with ammunition issued by the Department.
3. Officers shall inspect all rounds prior to loading their weapon and make periodic inspections for damaged rounds.
4. Department issued ammunition will be used and replaced on an annual basis.

### **III. HANDLING OF FIREARMS**

1. The authority to bear firearms carries with it an obligation and responsibility to exercise discipline, restraint, and good judgment in their use. The officer must keep in mind that when firing a weapon, there always exists a danger to innocent parties.
2. As a general rule, when in presence of the public, a handgun should be drawn only when the officer or his/her superior has sufficient cause to expect it will be used and the officer is preparing for its use. Shoulder weapons (long arms) may be displayed as their use may require.
3. When feasible a warning should be given before engaging in the use of deadly force.
4. A handgun, rifle or shotgun muzzle shall not be held in direct contact with an individual, except as a last resort.
5. Firearms shall be secured as soon as practicable after determining that the use of deadly force is not necessary.

### **IV. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS**

1. Officers may discharge a firearm under the following circumstances:
2. To safely destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety; as a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured and other alternatives have been exhausted. Supervisor approval should be sought when feasible.
3. During range practice or competitive sporting events.
4. For ballistics and scientific testing.
5. In defense of a life.
6. Firing a weapon should be for the intent of rendering the person at whom the weapon is discharged incapable of continuing the activity prompting the officer to shoot.
7. **Warning shots are prohibited.**
8. Firing a weapon at or from a moving vehicle should not be considered except as the ultimate measure of self-defense or defense of another when the suspect is using deadly force.
9. Under no circumstances will an officer fire at a moving motor vehicle with the intent of rendering the motor vehicle incapable of being operated. However, an

officer may, under extreme circumstances, discharge his weapon at a suspect inside a moving motor vehicle with intent to stop the suspect's action(s).

10. Firing at a fleeing person will not be considered justified unless the officer reasonably believes that the person he/she is considering shooting poses an imminent threat to human life.
11. When an officer discharges a firearm accidentally or in the line of duty, except at firearms qualifications, his immediate supervisor will be notified as soon as possible, but never later than the conclusion of his tour-of-duty.
12. When a duty firearm is discharged, on or off-duty, the officer shall file a written Use of Force Report of the incident through established channels to the Chief of Police. If an officer is unable to write the report, the duty supervisor will ensure the necessary reports will ensure the requisite reports are properly prepared and forwarded in a timely manner.
13. Division Commanders shall review reports of discharge of firearms with the assistance of the supervisor in charge. The division commander will investigate the facts and will submit a report of his findings and recommendations. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

#### **V. CARE OF WEAPONS**

1. All officers are responsible for maintaining assigned and approved weapons and keeping them clean.
2. Willful or negligent damage to a department approved weapon by an employee shall not be tolerated. **Incorrect or negligent use of a weapon is prohibited.**
3. All officers shall, by every practical means, secure all weapons from unauthorized unauthorized access. Department approved firearms shall not be left in unsecured vehicles while on-duty or off-duty or when the vehicle is unattended for extended periods of time. Weapons shall be removed from an officer's assigned vehicle and secured during his regular days off and during off hours. Furthermore, officers will assure that weapons are not left unsecured or unattended during workout or personal times while at the police station.
4. Officers are responsible for inspecting their approved weapons for safety and maintenance needs and ensuring that the weapon is safe and functional at all times. Weapons shall be subject to random and monthly inspections by a supervisor for proper lubrication and cleanliness.
5. All repairs on department issued weapons shall be performed by Department Armorer or certified gun smith coordinated through the Department Armorer.

6. Department weapons found to be defective shall be delivered to the Department Armorer for repair. If necessary he will issue another weapon for use during this repair period.
7. All weapons stored at home should be secured in a transportation storage case with a gun lock. All officers should utilize this lock to secure the weapon, separate the firearm from the ammunition and keep out of the reach of children and other inexperienced or unauthorized persons.

## **VI. FIREARMS QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Firearms qualification courses are mandatory for all officers, and courses will be scheduled bi-annually as per NMDPS standards.
2. Firearms qualifications will include a minimum of two (2) pistol qualifications and one (1) shotgun qualification and one (1) police long rifle qualification per year for all officers carrying those weapon systems. There will be one (1) off-duty qualification and one (1) back-up qualification for officers authorized to carry off-duty and back up weapons other than their duty weapon. There will be one (1) qualification for other department issued firearms; police scoped rifle, gas guns. These courses will be offered throughout a calendar year.
3. If it is necessary for an officer to miss a qualification, a written request will be submitted and approved by the Commanding Officer who issued the training order. At the discretion of the Lieutenant, those officers who have missed a scheduled qualification during the year will be scheduled for makeup shoot by the end of the year.
4. Every commissioned officer must maintain a minimum shooting score as stipulated by the Range Master/New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy. Officers must shoot approved courses with their issued and/or approved personal duty weapons and approved off-duty weapon.
5. If an officer is unable to qualify, completion of a remedial training course will be required. This remedial training will be conducted in lieu of normally scheduled assigned duties until the officer successfully completes remedial training and qualifications.
6. If after a reasonable time, the firearms instructor and the Patrol Commander determine that an officer cannot qualify, a detailed report shall be submitted to the Chief of Police. The officer shall be placed on Administrative unarmed duty in civilian clothes pending a determination of the officer's employment status.
7. If an officer fails to qualify with the back-up handgun or off-duty handgun, the officer shall not carry that weapon until qualification requirements are met.

Notification of the officers' immediate supervisor will be made.

8. Because this training is mandatory, any unauthorized absence of commissioned officers at this training is subject to disciplinary action.
9. Certain circumstances may excuse an officer from scheduled qualifications (illness, injury, pregnancy). The officer is required to qualify immediately upon returning to full status capacity.
10. All firearms training will be conducted by certified firearm instructors.
11. All training and proficiency demonstrations will be documented and maintained at the Department Armory. The range master will inspect all firearms records once every quarterly and report it to his assigned Commander.

## **VII. FIRING RANGE PROCEDURES**

- A. The object of the firearm section is to provide training in the use of department approved weapons. It is the officer's responsibility to conduct themselves in a mature manner and use common sense in safe handling procedures with handguns, shotguns, and rifles. The following range rules and firearms safety standards will be followed by everyone engaged in firearms training. Infractions of, or disregard for, firearms safety will be dealt with promptly and firmly by the firearm's staff and may be subject to disciplinary action:
- B. Safety Rules and Regulations:
  1. The range master is the ultimate authority on the range. The range master or assistant range masters will enforce range discipline.
  2. When arriving at the range weapons will be secured in a holster or transportation devise case.
  3. Any loading/unloading or checking the condition of a weapon (s) will be done either on the firing line or at a side safety berm as directed.
  4. Any person behind the firing line shall maintain their weapon(s) in a holster or transportation device/case.
  5. The use of ear and eye protection is mandatory during live firing.
  6. Body armor (ballistic vests) will be worn at all times while on the live fire range. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
  7. Hats with a brim Base ball type caps or must be worn at all times while on the live fire range. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

8. During drawing and or holstering sequences the trigger finger shall be along the side of the frame of the weapon.
9. When at the low ready the trigger finger shall be alongside the frame of the weapon.
10. All shooters are to remain on the firing line unless permission has been obtained from a range master to leave the line.
11. Un-holstered weapons shall be pointed down range at all times.
12. Talking between shooters or unnecessary movement while on the firing line is prohibited.
13. Smoking is not permitted on the live fire line or near ammunition.
14. Any shooter who has consumed or is under the influence of alcoholic beverages, drugs or any medication that may impair the shooter ability will be removed from the range.
15. Retrieving of "loading sources" will be done only on command.
16. Anytime that a weapon is holstered the retention devices will be secured and engaged.
17. A command of **CEASE FIRE** may be used if an unsafe condition exists. Further, a whistle burst may be used if an unsafe condition exists. Shooters shall make certain that weapons are pointed in a safe direction.
18. All handling of weapons will be consistent with DPS Law Enforcement Academy firearms safety guidelines and in accordance with the respect due to a deadly weapon. Horseplay, practical jokes or other such action is prohibited. Such acts will be cause for disciplinary action for the Range Master or Firearms Instructor.

### **VIII. ATTACHEMENTS:**

- A. Firearms Qualifications Score Sheet
- B. Use of Force After Action Report (for Taser, OC, Pepperball, baton and firearm)
- C. K-9 Use/Injury Report

## FIREARMS SCORES REPORTING FORM

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT**

Reporting Department \_\_\_\_\_ Range Location \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Qualification: \_\_\_\_\_

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*This form is provided for your convenience. In the event you currently record the same information on another document, please submit copies of your records.*

I hereby certify that I possess a valid and current Department of Public Safety, Training and Recruiting Division, Firearms Instructor Certificate and the above information is true and correct.

Firearms Instructor Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

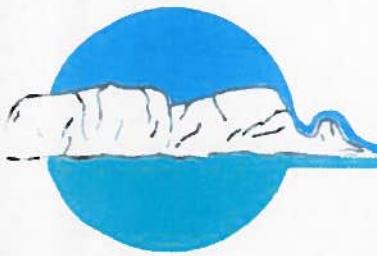
Firearms Instructor Signature:

DPS Official Use:  Data Entry Input Processed by:

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Certification # -

Contact#:



## CITY OF LAS VEGAS

318 MORENO • LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO 87701 • 505-425-7504 • FAX: 505-425-5046

LAS VEGAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Chief Gary Gold**



### LAS VEGAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AFTER ACTION REPORT FORM

CASE# \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BADGE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ PLATOON \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

#### (ACTIVITY INFORMATION)

<input type="checkbox"/> K-9	USED BY CONTACT BITE/INJURIES (If yes, complete bite/injury report)	[Y] [N] [Y] [N]
<input type="checkbox"/> ASP	USED BY CONTACT SIMPLY DRAWN	[Y] [N] [Y] [N]
<input type="checkbox"/> OC SPRAY	USED BY CONTACT SIMPLY DRAWN	[Y] [N] [Y] [N]
<input type="checkbox"/> SELF DEFENSE	USED BY CONTACT	[Y] [N]
<input type="checkbox"/> FIREARMS	SIMPLY DRAWN	[Y] [N]
<input type="checkbox"/> TASER	SIMPLY DRAWN DEPLOYED USED BY CONTACT	[Y] [N] [Y] [N] [Y] [N]

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLAINT  NON-COMPLAINT

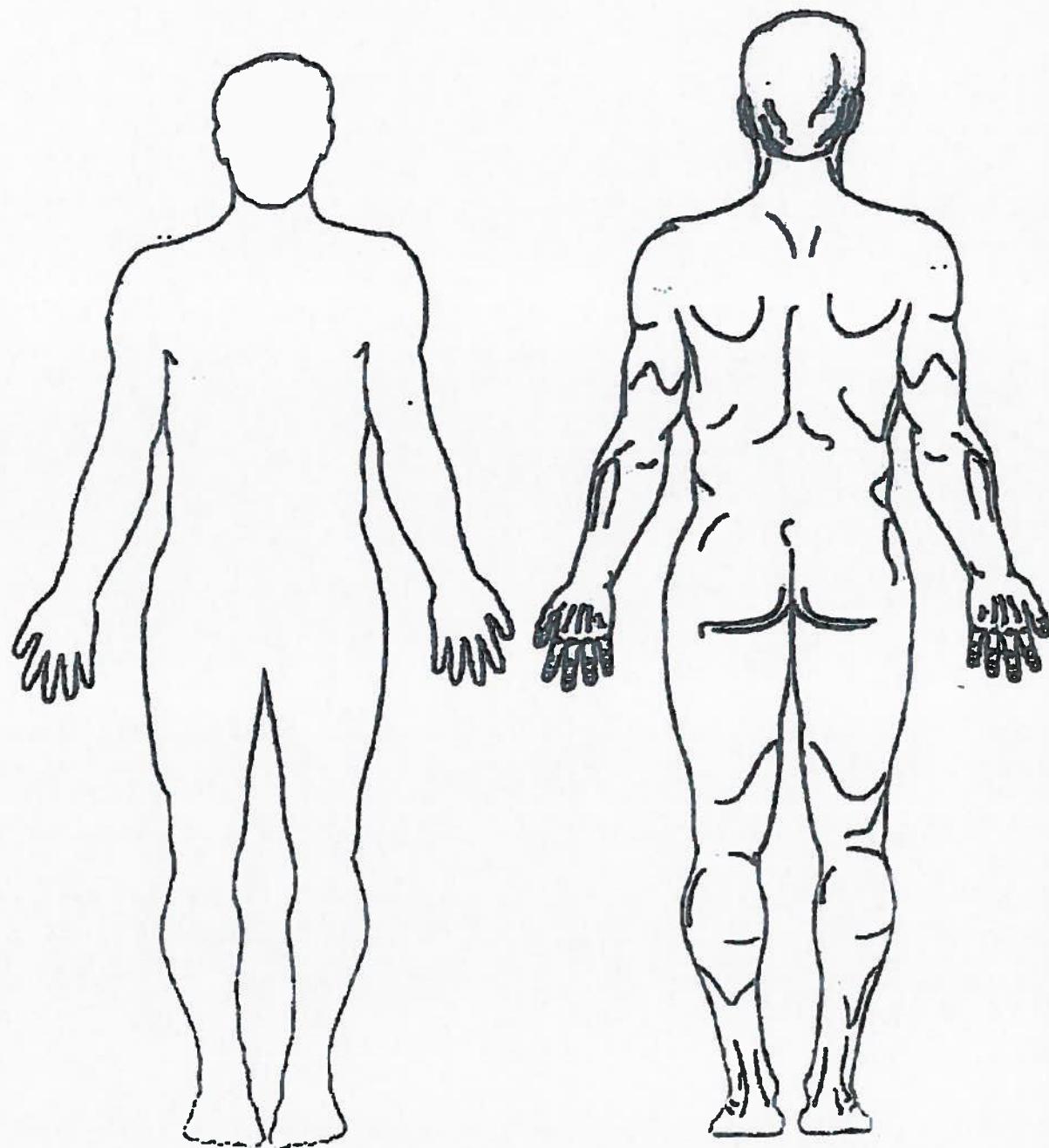
DESCRIBE INCIDENT IN A SHORT NARRATIVE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\* ON ATTACHED FORM, SHOW POINT OF CONTACT IF ANY\***

Las Vegas City Police Department

Case # \_\_\_\_\_

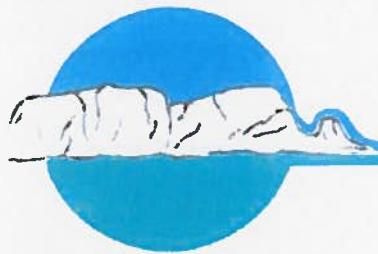


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OFFICER

ID

DATE



CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
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LAS VEGAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Gary Gold



## K-9 USE / INJURY REPORT

CASE# \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

INJURED:  SUSPECT  K-9  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCUMSTANCES:  APPREHENSION  SELF-DEFENSE  
 ACCIDENTAL  TRAINING

LOCATION OF OCCURANCE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: LAST \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESS INFORMATION:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICER/HANDLER: \_\_\_\_\_ ID \_\_\_\_\_ K-9 \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## **K-9 USE / INJURY REPORT**

**CHIEF OF POLICE / COMMANDER ON CALL NOTIFIED** **[Y] [N]**

**MEDICAL TREATMENT REQUIRED** **[Y] [N]**

DOCTOR \_\_\_\_\_ TIME TREATED \_\_\_\_\_ TIME RELEASED \_\_\_\_\_

## **DISPOSITION AFTER TREATMENT**

**DISCRIPTION OF ACTION**

**TREATMENT RECEIVED**

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY \_\_\_\_\_ ID \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

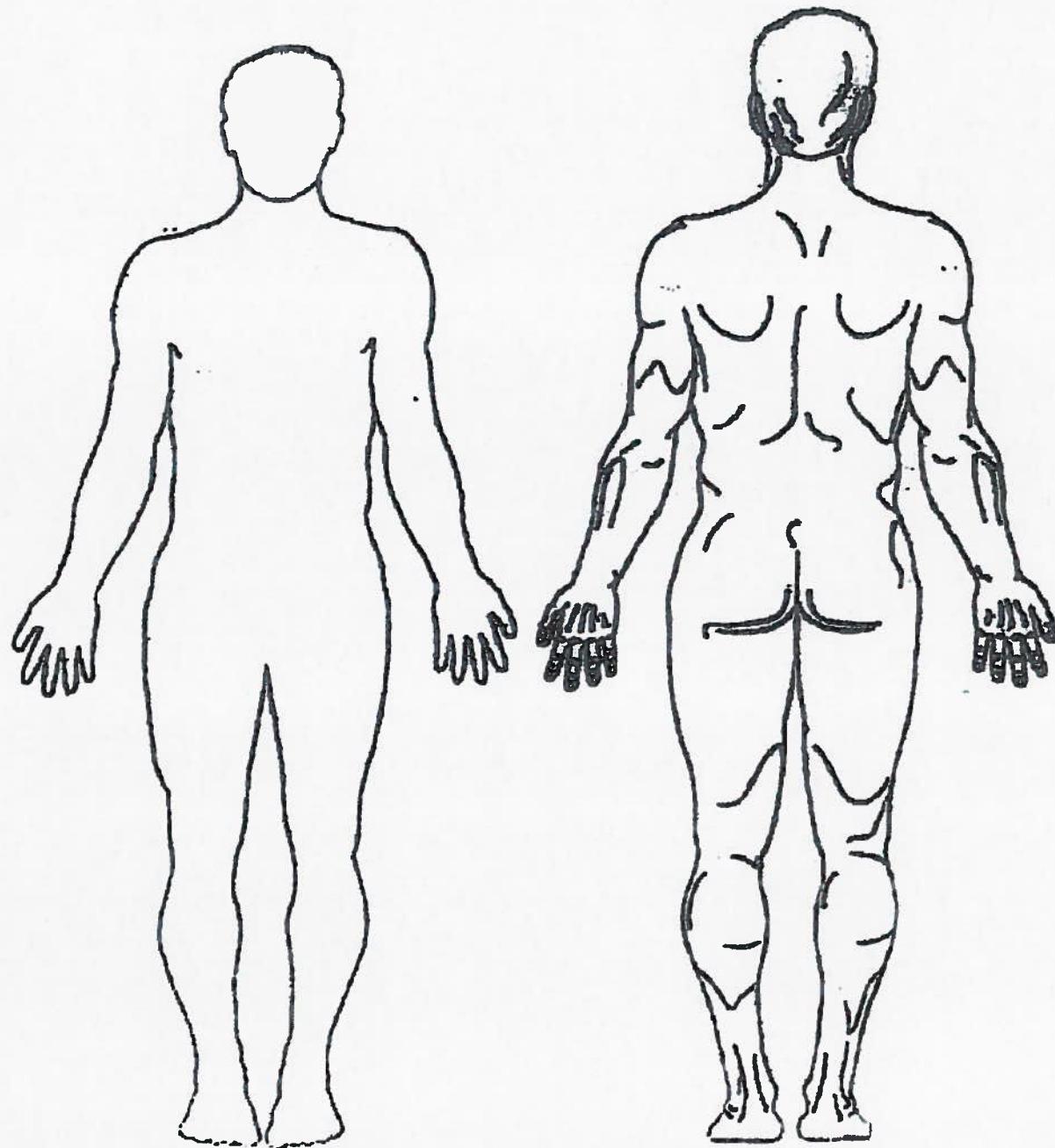
## **DETAILS OF ACTION BY K-9**

**OFFICER/HANDLER** **ID** **K-9** **DATE**

**\*ON ATTACHED FORM, SHOW POINT OF CONTACT\***

Las Vegas City Police Department

Case # \_\_\_\_\_



OFFICER

ID

DATE